

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Matthew Schneider on 3/28/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, Lines 9-10 and Claim 18, Lines 9-10: "device being an emitter which produces and emits electrons" has been replaced by --device comprising a chamber containing an electron source which produces electrons and a window through which the electrons are emitted--.

Add new Claim 32: --Device fastening an emitter to a housing comprising a first, manoeuvre element being slidable in a first direction, a second, activating element being slidable in a second, fastening direction being inclined in relation to said first direction, whereby the first and second elements are interconnected via at least one cam mechanism such that displacement of the first element in said first direction causes displacement of the second element in said second direction, and the displacement of the second element in said second direction applying a fastening force to the emitter

urging the emitter towards the housing, the emitter which is fastened to the housing by the device being an emitter which produces and emits electrons;

wherein the housing comprises a web inlet and a web outlet positioned in opposing relation to one another so that a web to be sterilized enters the housing by way of the web inlet and exits the housing by way of the web outlet, the housing also comprising at least one opening, the electrons produced and emitted by the emitter passing through the opening into the housing to sterilize the web moving from the web inlet towards the web outlet.--

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims is that the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the inclusion of the limitation of "the emitter...comprising a chamber containing an electron source which produces electrons and a window through which the electrons are emitted (Claim 1, Line 5; Claim 16, Line 3) and "wherein the housing comprises a web inlet and a web outlet positioned in opposing relation to one another so that a web to be sterilized enters the housing by way of the web inlet and exits the housing by way of the web outlet, the housing also comprising at least one opening, the electrons produced and emitted by the emitter passing through the opening into the housing to sterilize the web moving from the web inlet towards the web outlet" (Claim 32). The closest prior art of record, Lin, discloses a fastening system significantly as claimed, but does not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify the prior art as such. There is no cogent reasoning that is unequivocally

independent of hindsight that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the prior art to obtain the applicant's invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSHUA T. KENNEDY whose telephone number is (571)272-8297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joshua T. Kennedy/
Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679

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